



## Interior People: A Look at Department Employees

### DAS for Bob Lamb



Bob Lamb

**Bob Lamb**, the senior career executive in the Department, has been named deputy assistant secretary for Budget and Finance. A 20-year veteran at Interior, Lamb served as director of Fiscal Resources for the past four years. He will manage his current responsibilities while assuming new ones,

said **Bonnie Cohen**, assistant secretary for Policy, Management and Budget.

“Bob will assist me in providing leadership and direction for all of the financial aspects of the Department,” Cohen said. “Secretary Babbitt’s appointment recognizes Bob’s continuing contributions to the sound management of the Department’s varied programs and underscores the importance of these responsibilities to the Department’s continuing success at a time of increasing demands on limited financial resources.”

Cohen said that under Lamb’s direction, the Department has streamlined and improved financial operations, provided timely auditing of financial statements, improved the delivery of services, eliminated burdensome and obsolete regulations, installed new tools such as electronic commerce and the purchase card, provided e-mail capability to more than 57,000 Interior users, and worked collaboratively to integrate communications needs.

### Claudia Schechter Honored

**Claudia Schechter**, the chief executive officer of Interior’s Service Center, received an award for her strong commitment and support of the Department’s Safety and Health Program. Interior’s Safety and Occupational Health Council made the presentation at its recent quarterly meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. Chairman of the Council **Gary Kramer**, U.S. Geological Survey, presented the award on behalf of the group, which is made up of bureau safety and health managers.



Claudia Schechter

Under Schechter’s leadership as safety and health official for the Department, the program has become more goal-oriented and focused on the promotion and enhancement of safe and healthful working conditions and practices at the field level. This is typified by the Departmental Safety and Occupational Health Strategic Plan, which provides a clear outline for improved program direction. The award is a commemorative plate featuring an engraving of DAWA, the Kachina Sun Dancer of Hopi and Pueblo Native Americans.

**Correction:** A page 3 article in the February issue on linking computers at San Juan National Historic Site into a network—*Hardwiring History*—was written by **Deborah Rehn**, architect at the historic site. The feature was mistakenly attributed to another contributor. Also on that page, the photograph of the 1812 Baltimore Clipper, *The Pride of Baltimore II*, was by Jim Setrell.

## Officer Dyer’s Gift

Last April, U.S. Park Police officer **David Dyer** took an extra job. In addition to his normal work for the National Capital Parks East, the 18-year veteran became the environmental crimes control officer at the Anacostia Station in Washington, D.C. That made him responsible for investigating violations that had become so commonplace that many neighborhood park areas looked like commercial dumping sites.

Officer Dyer began his effort by introducing himself and a self-help message to the community. He attended Advisory Neighborhood Council meetings and explained the Park Service’s pollution awareness initiative. He walked the neighborhood streets, speaking with residents and passing out flyers, telling them what they could do to make a difference. He said that they did not have to accept a lower standard of living caused by the thoughtlessness and criminality of others. And he asked for their help.

With community support, Dyer created a citizen network and developed a stable cadre of credible witnesses who now willingly assist the Park Police in identifying and reporting illegal dumping activity as the acts occur. His successful investigation of eight violations led to projects that required the violators to clean up the pollution they had caused. The work was worth an estimated \$15,000 in restitution to the Park Service.

Dyer single-handedly has closed 55 percent of his 40 cases. His efforts also exposed a major dumping violation that had been carried out for the past 20 years, causing more than half a million dollars in damage. This case is with the U.S. Attorney’s office for prosecution.

“Officer Dyer’s efforts have raised the consciousness of everyone he touches,” says Park Police Captain **Ronald DeAngelo**. “He is not only rebeautifying our inner city national parks, but also is giving much needed hope to the residents of



U.S. Park Police Officer David Dyer brought a message of self-help and activism to park area communities plagued by illegal dumping.

Washington. The pollution awareness initiative that he and others are promoting is proving to residents that living near a national park—any national park, not just one of the nation’s Crown Jewels—is a wonderful benefit.”

Dyer’s ambitious crusade has not only changed the attitude of the community he serves but also that of his fellow officers who now view illegal dumping as a high priority, equal to illegal drug activity. Due to his efforts, patrols of areas where dumping occurred were stepped up, community participation increased, and the frequency of solid waste dumping has decreased in all targeted areas.

As a member of several area task forces, Dyer continues to spread the good word. He has joined the District of Columbia Nuisance Task Force, the Prince George’s County Environmental Crime Task Force, the Northern Virginia/District of Columbia Regional Task Force, and the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee for the Federal District of Maryland. Through these groups, Dyer provides a valuable liaison on environmental protection issues between the NPS and many federal, state, and local law enforcement entities.

## BLM Scout Partnership Celebrated

**Stu Carlson**, who served as special assistant for minerals information and education outreach to BLM’s Utah State Director, was commended recently at a retirement luncheon for his outstanding efforts at developing a partnership between BLM and the Boy Scouts of America’s Philmont Scout Ranch and the Sange de Cristo Girl Scout Council. The BLM program reaches out to thousands of young men and women each year by recruiting geologists, earth-science teachers, mineral-industry specialists, and other earth-resource professionals as volunteers for a week’s stay at scout camps in New Mexico.

**Bill Wagner**, a senior technical specialist at BLM’s Utah State Office, has been named BLM’s new national coordinator for minerals outreach to carry on Carlson’s responsibilities. Wagner, who has served as an adult scout leader for the past 35 years, is an active member of the Wasatch Mountain Men (Utah environmental leaders) and is a Leave No Trace master. Employees interested in joining the program should contact Wagner at BLM’s National Coordinator for Minerals Outreach, (801) 539-4062.

**Steve Volz**, a solid-minerals geologist from BLM’s Milwaukee District, participated in the earth science program last summer. “The interaction that I had with the crews trekking through the camp was deeply satisfying,” said Volz, who spent a week at Cypher’s Mine, one of the three historic mining sites at the Philmont Ranch. At the site, the staff re-enacted a 19th-century gold mining camp setting.



Above, Stu Carlson, left, displays a silver commemorative buckle he received from the BLM’s Utah State Director Bill Lamb, at right. Carlson also received a Letter of Appreciation for Outstanding Service from the BLM Director. At right, Bill Wagner instructs Philmont Scout Ranch training rangers in techniques of teaching environmental awareness. Photos by Mona Schermerhorn. Below, BLM geologist Steve Volz pauses in front of a 19th-century gold mine in the Cypher’s Mine area.





# and Their Work



## Overland Trail Exhibit at Interior Museum

Hikers on the Overland Trail, at left, walk toward Church Butte in Lincoln County, Wyoming. The photo by **Greg Mac Gregor** is from an exhibit, entitled *Retracing the Overland Trail to California*, on display at the Interior Museum in the Main Interior Building, Washington, D.C.

The Trail is a 2,000 mile-long trace across the country over which an estimated 300,000 to 500,000 people traveled west to search for gold and to settle in California between the 1840s and 1860s. The show contains 28 black and white contemporary views of the Trail along with maps and diary quotes that Mac Gregor collected.

In 1987 Mac Gregor set out on a seven-year project to record the trail. He took the photographs while either standing in the ruts of the trail or focusing directly at where they used to be. In one photograph the trail is buried beneath the University of Kansas Football Stadium. Modern highways have often found no batter route than those used by the Trail. In another, children in a 1990s jog-a-thon race by Sutters Fort where the trail ended in California.

The exhibit will be at Main Interior until July 31. Mac Gregor will present a slide lecture at the museum on May 16. Call **Debra Berke** at (202) 208-4743 for information. The museum is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for federal holidays.

## Notable Quotable

**"A** is the grade I would give to the thousands of men and women of the Department of the Interior who work to protect our national parks and refuges, monitor floods, earthquakes, and volcanoes, fight wildfires, work on reservations, create healthy public range lands, and restore precious habitat for this nation's treasured diversity of wildlife, fish, and plant species. Each day their dedication and courage deserve high marks and the respect of all Americans who love this great land. **"**



Secretary Babbitt when informed that USA TODAY's editorial board had given him an A for his work, saying Babbitt "is one of the best and brightest...does such a good job...seldom gets ink or air time in the media...[and] has our environment in proper perspective...."



## Remembering Rick Hutchinson

*A gentle presence. Authentic. Extremely knowledgeable. Reliable as Old Faithful. A part of Yellowstone.*

Those were some of the remembrances of Interior leaders who knew **Roderick (Rick) A. Hutchinson**, a research geologist at Yellowstone National Park. Hutchinson died in an avalanche in the Hart Lake area in southcentral Yellowstone in early March. His body was recovered March 6, after a three-day search.

"For more than a quarter of a century, Rick Hutchinson has been a Yellowstone institution," said **Michael Finley**, superintendent of Yellowstone. "He was one of those rare, authentic experts who can be counted on to help the many people, visitors and researchers alike, who come and go in a place like Yellowstone," said Finley, expressing his deep sorrow at Hutchinson's death.

"I've met few who shared their passion for geology with others so warmly, so eagerly, so openly," **Secretary Babbitt** said. "Rick embodied the twin duties of National Park rangers: to preserve and interpret the wonders of creation. My sympathies go out to his family, especially his wife, Jennifer Whipple, a skilled botanist who completed Rick's life in so many ways."

Hutchinson was known by scientists throughout the world for his deep familiarity with Yellowstone's geothermal resources and was the author of many publications, reports, and papers on the park's unique geological wonders.

"Rick unlocked Yellowstone's geothermal secrets, gave us all a deeper and more profound appreciation for what has been entrusted to our care," said Babbitt. "And he did so with a steady supply of enthusiasm, humility, hospitality, and accuracy that made him more reliable than Old Faithful itself."

The avalanche hit Hutchinson while he apparently was skiing westbound along the flank of Factory Hill (near Mount Sheridan),



*Rick Hutchinson prepares to enter Yellowstone's Grand Prismatic Spring in the park's hot water boat, the Little Dipper, to take scientific measurements.*

using his normal route up Witch Creek to visit a thermal feature. He had been escorting a visitor to the area and communicated by radio with park rangers at about 8 a.m. on Monday, March 3, arranging to meet them on Tuesday afternoon half way between Hart Lake and the trailhead. When rangers arrived at the rendezvous, they noticed several avalanches at the base of Factory Hill and began their search. The visitor's body was recovered a day after Hutchinson's was found.

Hutchinson began working for the National Park Service in Yellowstone as a Seasonal Interpretive Specialist in 1970. He received an appointment as a Geothermal Specialist in 1973 and was promoted to Geologist in 1976.

"It was almost as if he were a part of the park itself," Finley reflected. "A gentle presence that had always been there and would go on forever. Nobody loved Yellowstone more, or was more wholly devoted to embracing its spirit and caring for its wonders. Rick touched many lives here, and will not be forgotten."